

- 14 -

Claims

1. An optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one optical circuit or optical circuit component; the said enclosure comprising:

5 a tray-type container containing the said circuit(s) or component(s),
a tray-type closure member arranged with its external base surface covering
(preferably closing) the said container, the closure member carrying on the opposite side
thereof from the container at least one further optical circuit component for connecting the
said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) to an external circuit or component, and
10 sealing means providing a moisture-resistant seal between the said container and the
said closure member.

2. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the said sealing means
comprises a laminar sheet intermediate the said container and the said closure member.

15 3. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the said laminar sheet
comprises a metallised moisture resistant layer.

4. An optical circuit as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the said sealing means comprise the
20 base of the said closure member engaging the said container.

5. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the said
sealing means provides a moisture resistant seal between the said container, the said closure
member and fibre optic connecting cables exiting the enclosed region of the container from
25 the enclosed component.

6. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the said sealing means
comprises a pair of sealing members and the said optical fibres are located between the said
strips and sealed to the strips by the application of heat and/or pressure.

30 7. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the said
closure member is attachably/detachably mounted with respect to the said container.

8. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the said enclosed circuit or component is a pre-installed and/or pre-fabricated circuit or component installed in the said container during manufacturing assembly thereof.

5

9. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the said at least one further optical circuit or component comprises an optical splitter, coupler, attenuator filter, or other passive and/or active optical component(s) and/or fibre optic cable.

10 10. An optical circuit enclosure as claimed in any preceding claim comprising at least one further container and wherein the said closure member closes each of the said containers, thereby to provide separate enclosures for respective optical circuits and/or components.

11. An optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one pre-fabricated and pre-installed optical circuit or optical circuit component, the said enclosure comprising:

15

a tray-type container containing the said circuit(s) or component(s),

a tray-type closure member arranged with its external base surface covering (preferably closing) the said container, the closure member carrying on the opposite side thereof from the container at least one further optical circuit component for connecting the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) to an external circuit or component.

20

12. An optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one optical circuit or optical circuit component together with lengths of optical fibre which extend outwards of the enclosure for optically connecting the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) to an external circuit or component, the said enclosure comprising:

25

a tray-type container containing the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s), and

a tamper-evident closure member sealing the said container around the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) and the enclosed lengths of optical fibre.

30

13. An enclosure as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the said tamper evident closure member comprises a laminar element sealed to the open end of the said container.

- 16 -

14. An enclosure as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the laminar element comprises a moisture resistant barrier.

15. An enclosure as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the said barrier element comprises a flexible sheet having a metallised moisture resistant layer.

16. An enclosure as claimed in any of Claims 13 to 15 wherein the said laminar element is sealed to the periphery of the said container.

17. An enclosure substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

18. Use of an enclosure according to any of Claims 12 to 16 as the container in an enclosure according to any of Claims 1 to 11.

19. An enclosure according to any preceding claim, wherein the said enclosed optical circuit(s) or component(s) is(are) at least partly (preferably wholly) enclosed in a sealed bag-like article which is itself wholly enclosed within the said container.

20. An optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one optical circuit or optical circuit component together with lengths of optical fibre which extend outwards of the enclosure for optically connecting the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) to an external circuit or component, the said enclosure comprising:

a tray-type container containing the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s); and

a tamper-evident closure member sealing the said container around the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) and the enclosed lengths of optical fibre, wherein optical fibres entering and/or leaving the enclosure are sealed between opposed portions of the tamper-evident closure member.

21. An optical circuit enclosure according to claim 20 and according to any of claims 1 to 19.

* * * * *